

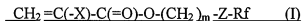
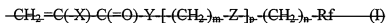
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A surface treatment agent comprising (1) a fluorine-containing polymer and (2) water and/or an organic solvent,

characterized in that the fluorine-containing polymer comprises (A) repeating units derived from (a) a fluorine-containing compound of the formula:



wherein X is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

Y is ~~O or NH~~;

Z is -S- or -SO<sub>2</sub>-;

Rf is a perfluoroalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

m is from 1 to 10, ~~n is from 0 to 10, and p is 0 or 1.~~

2. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 1, which is in the form of a solution, an emulsion or an aerosol.

3. (original): A method of treating a substrate with the surface treatment agent according to claim 1.

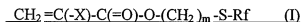
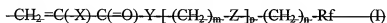
4. (currently amended): The method according to claim 3, wherein the substrate is a textile, a masonry, a filter ~~(for example, an electrostatic filter)~~, a dust protective mask, a fuel cell,

glass, paper, wood, leather, fur, asbestos, brick, cement, metal and oxide, ceramics, plastics, a coated surface or a plaster.

5. (original): A textile treated with the surface treatment agent according to claim 1.

6. (original): A carpet treated with the surface treatment agent according to claim 1.

7. (currently amended): A fluorine-containing compound (a) of the formula:



wherein X is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

Y is ~~O~~ or ~~NH~~;

Z is ~~S~~;

Rf is a perfluoroalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

m is from 1 to 10, ~~n is from 0 to 10, and~~ p is 0 or 1;

~~provided that when p is 0, Y is NH and that when p is 1, Y is O and n is 0.~~

8. (currently amended): The fluorine-containing compound according to claim 7,

wherein the carbon number of the perfluoroalkyl group (Rf group) is from 1 to 4.

9. (canceled).

10. (original): A fluorine-containing polymer comprising (A) repeating units derived from the fluorine-containing compound (a) according to claim 7.

11. (original): The fluorine-containing polymer according to claim 10, further having:

(B) repeating units derived from (b) a monomer free from a fluorine atom, and

(C) optionally, repeating units derived from (c) a crosslinkable monomer,

in addition to the repeating units (A).

12. (currently amended): The fluorine-containing polymer according to claim 11, wherein the fluorine atom-free monomer (b) forming the repeating units (B) is acrylates an acrylate of the general formula:



wherein  $A^1$  is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, and

$A^2$  is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms (~~particularly an alkyl group represented by  $\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}$  ( $n=1$  to  $30$ )).~~).

13. (original): The fluorine-containing polymer according to claim 11, wherein the crosslinkable monomer (c) forming the repeating units (C) is a fluorine-free monomer having at least two reactive groups and/or carbon-carbon double bonds.

14. (original): The fluorine-containing polymer according to claim 11, wherein the amount of the fluorine atom-free monomer (b) is 0.1 to 50 parts by weight, and

the amount of the crosslinkable monomer (c) is at most 20 parts by weight,

based on 100 parts by weight of the fluorine-containing compound (a).

15. (new): The surface treatment agent according to claim 1, wherein the carbon number of the perfluoroalkyl group ( $R_f$  group) is from 1 to 4.

16. (new): The surface treatment agent according to claim 1, further having:

(B) repeating units derived from (b) a monomer free from a fluorine atom, and

(C) optionally, repeating units derived from (c) a crosslinkable monomer,

in addition to the repeating units (A) derived from the fluorine-containing compound (a).

17. (new): The surface treatment agent according to claim 16, wherein the fluorine atom-free monomer (b) forming the repeating units (B) is an acrylate of the general formula:



wherein  $A^1$  is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, and

$A^2$  is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

18. (new): The surface treatment agent according to claim 16, wherein the crosslinkable monomer (c) forming the repeating units (C) is a fluorine-free monomer having at least two reactive groups and/or carbon-carbon double bonds.

19. (new): The fluorine-containing polymer according to claim 16, wherein the amount of the fluorine atom-free monomer (b) is 0.1 to 50 parts by weight, and

the amount of the crosslinkable monomer (c) is at most 20 parts by weight,

based on 100 parts by weight of the fluorine-containing compound (a).

20. (new): The fluorine-containing polymer according to claim 12, wherein  $A^2$  is an alkyl group represented by  $C_nH_{2n+1}$  ( $n=1$  to 30).

21. (new): The surface treatment agent according to claim 17, wherein  $A^2$  is an alkyl group represented by  $C_nH_{2n+1}$  ( $n=1$  to 30).